AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-4. In Figs. 1-4, the characters are amended to be oriented in the same direction and are at least 0.32cm height.

Replacement Sheets and Annotated Sheets Showing Changes are herewith attached.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 3-8 have been amended, and claims 9 and 10 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claim 2 has been cancelled. No new claims have been added.

(1) The abstract was objected to, which has been amended in this Response. Office Action, paragraphs 4-5.

(2) The drawings were objected to, because the characters are not oriented in the same direction and are not at least 0.32cm height, which have been amended in this Response. Office Action, paragraphs 6-7.

(3) The specification and claims were objected to, which have been amended in accordance with the examiner's suggestion. Office Action, paragraph 8. The original first lines of the paragraphs in the specification, mentioned in sections a, b and c of the Office Action, have spaces, though the Office Action asserts that spaces between the words are missing. However, those paragraphs in the specification are amended to emphasize the spaces in this Response.

(4) Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (US 6,613,298 B2, i.e., the US equivalent of JP 05-29871 cited by applicant). Office Action,

paragraph 11. Claims 1, 3 and 4 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)(1) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. Office Action, paragraph 12.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 2. Thus, the rejection of amended claim 1 is not supported by Tanaka et al. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(5) Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (US 5,368,762). Office Action, paragraph 13. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Sato et al. Office Action, paragraph 14.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 2, and also to incorporate the limitation of "solid material," whose basis is found at page 10, lines 13-17.

First, there is no disclosure or teaching in Sato et al. to solidify the solution of the trivalent and tetravalent vanadium disclosed therein. The solid material of the modified vanadium compound of the present invention is superior in storage stability, and easiness in handling and transportation, as compared with ones in a liquid state, which should be one of the unexpected results of the present invention.

In addition, the contents of the sulfuric acid in the vanadium solutions, specifically disclosed as Examples 1-4 of Sato et al., are outside the claimed range of the present invention. The contents of the excessive sulfuric acid of Sato et al. are calculated as follows:

Examples of Sato	Disclosed amount of $V_2(SO_4)_3$	Disclosed amount of Sulfuric Acid	Calculated Amount of the Sulfuric Acid*	Calculated Excessive Amount of the Sulfuric Acid
Example 1	19.5g	20cc (concentrated)	35.28g	64.4wt%
Example 2	2.05g	80cc (concentrated)	141.1g	98.6wt%
Example 3	20g	50cc (4M)	19.6g	49.5wt%
Example 4	0.54g	25cc (concentrated)	45.9g	98.8wt%

*: The amount of the sulfuric acid is calculated assuming that the concentrated sulfuric acid has a concentration of 18mol/L.

Thus, since the solutions of Examples 1-4 of Sato et al. include too excessive sulfuric acid, the solution is highly corrosive and difficult to be solidified.

On the other hand, when the excessiveness of the amount of the sulfuric acid is insufficient, solubility in water is decreased. By adjusting the excessive amount of the sulfuric acid within the claimed range, the solid material of the modified vanadium compound of the present invention can be easily dissolved in water, as compared with Comparative Examples, which do not contain excessive sulfuric acid, as described in Table 3 of the specification. This is another unexpected result of the present invention.

If the prior art discloses a range which touches, overlaps or is within the claimed range, but no specific examples falling within the claims directed to a narrow range, and if there is evidence of unexpected results within the claimed narrow range, it may be reasonable conclude that the narrow range is not disclosed with "sufficient specificity" to constitute an anticipation of the claims. The unexpected result also renders the claim unobvious. MPEP 2131.03.

In view of the above, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 103(a) is not supported by Sato et al. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(6) Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. Office Action, section 15.

In addition to the dependency of the claims, the features of claims 5-8 are not taught by Sato et al. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(7) In view of the above, claims 1 and 3-8, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

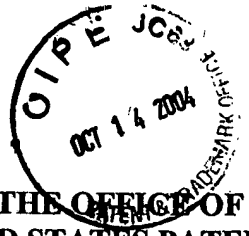
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Attachment: Limited Recognition
Replacement Sheet
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LIMITED RECOGNITION UNDER 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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Expires: July 7, 2007

Harry I. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline

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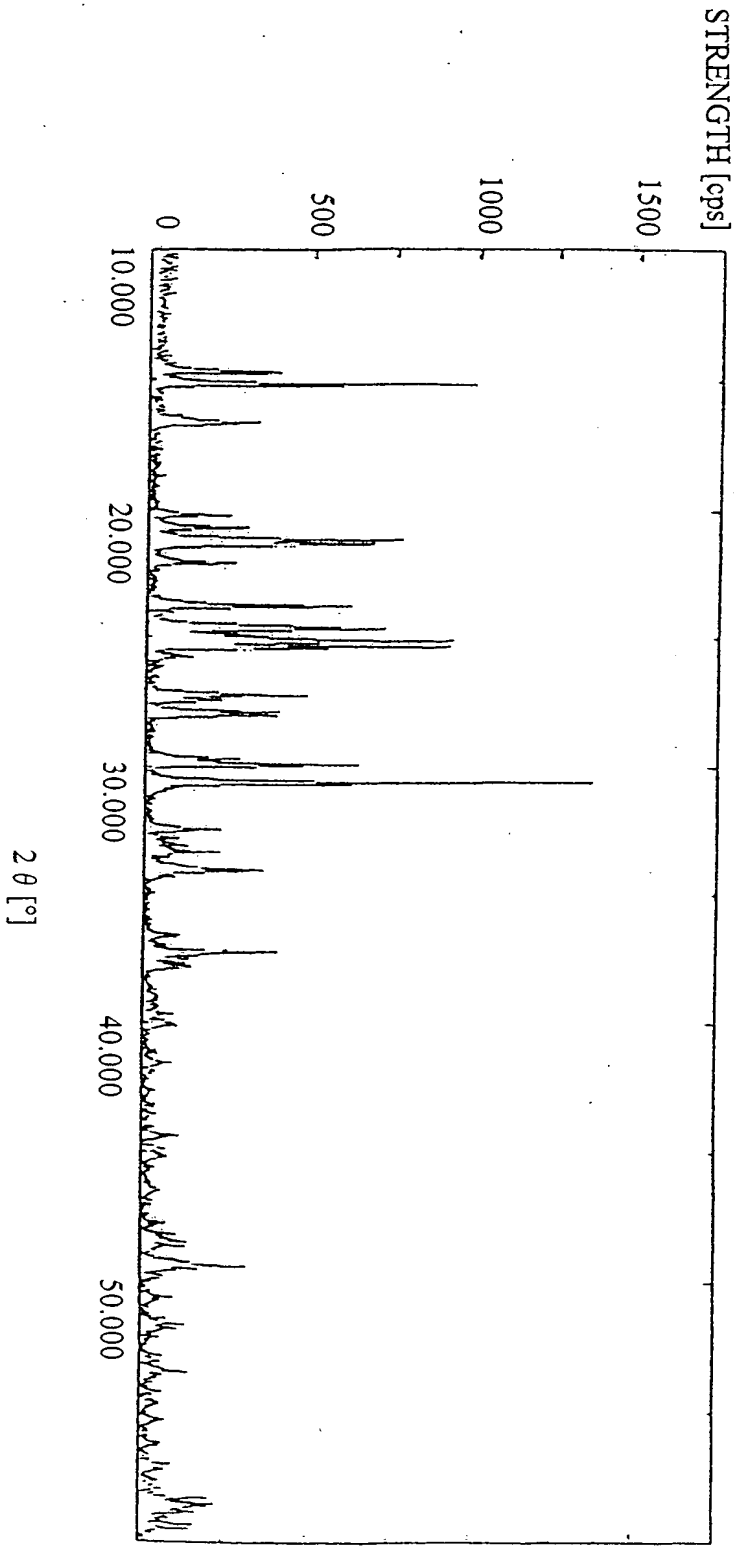


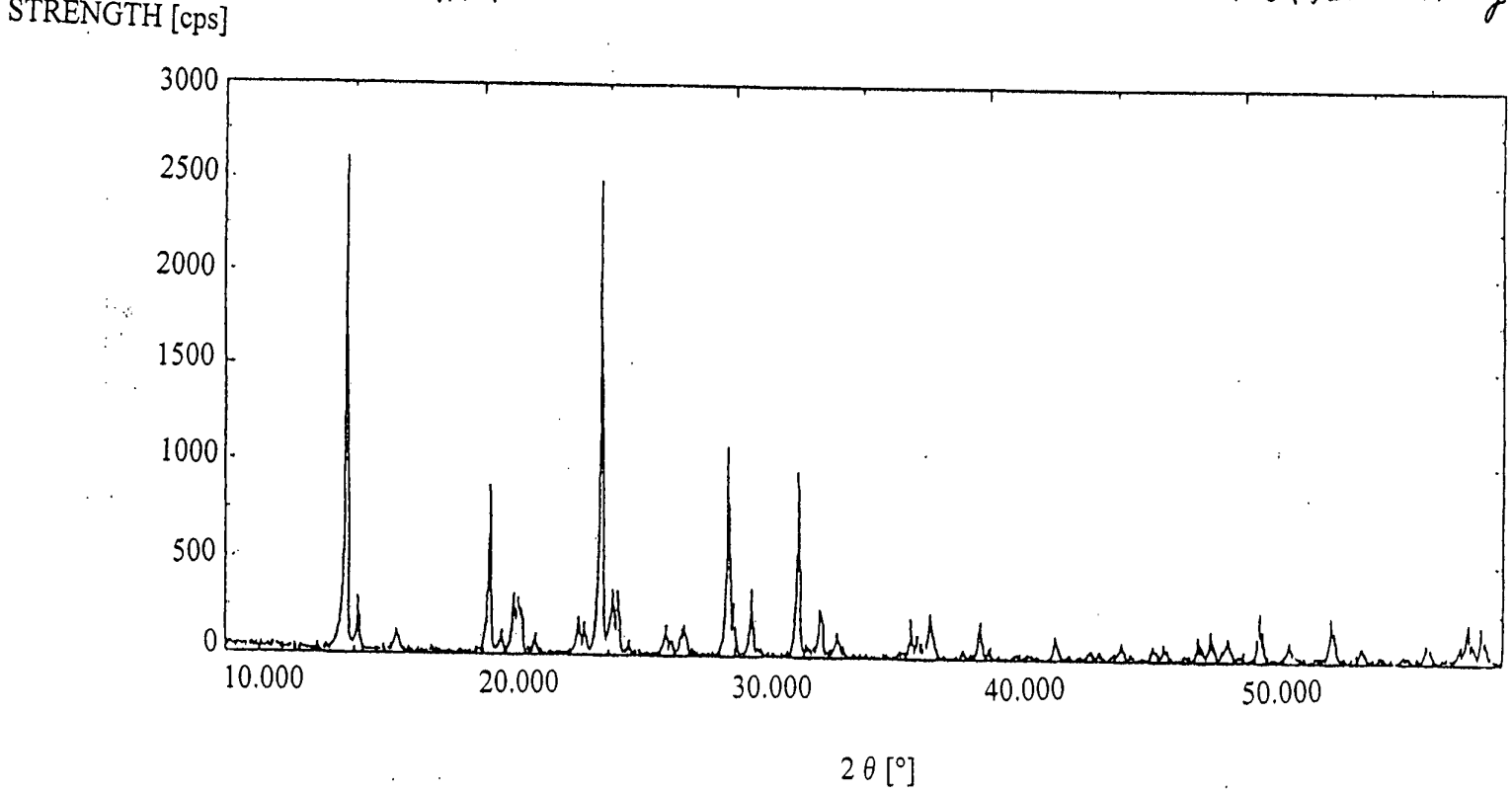
Fig. 1

The characters are amended to be oriented in the same direction and are at least 0.32cm height.

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Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2004
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig. 2

The characters are amended to be oriented in the same direction and are at least 0.32 cm height.



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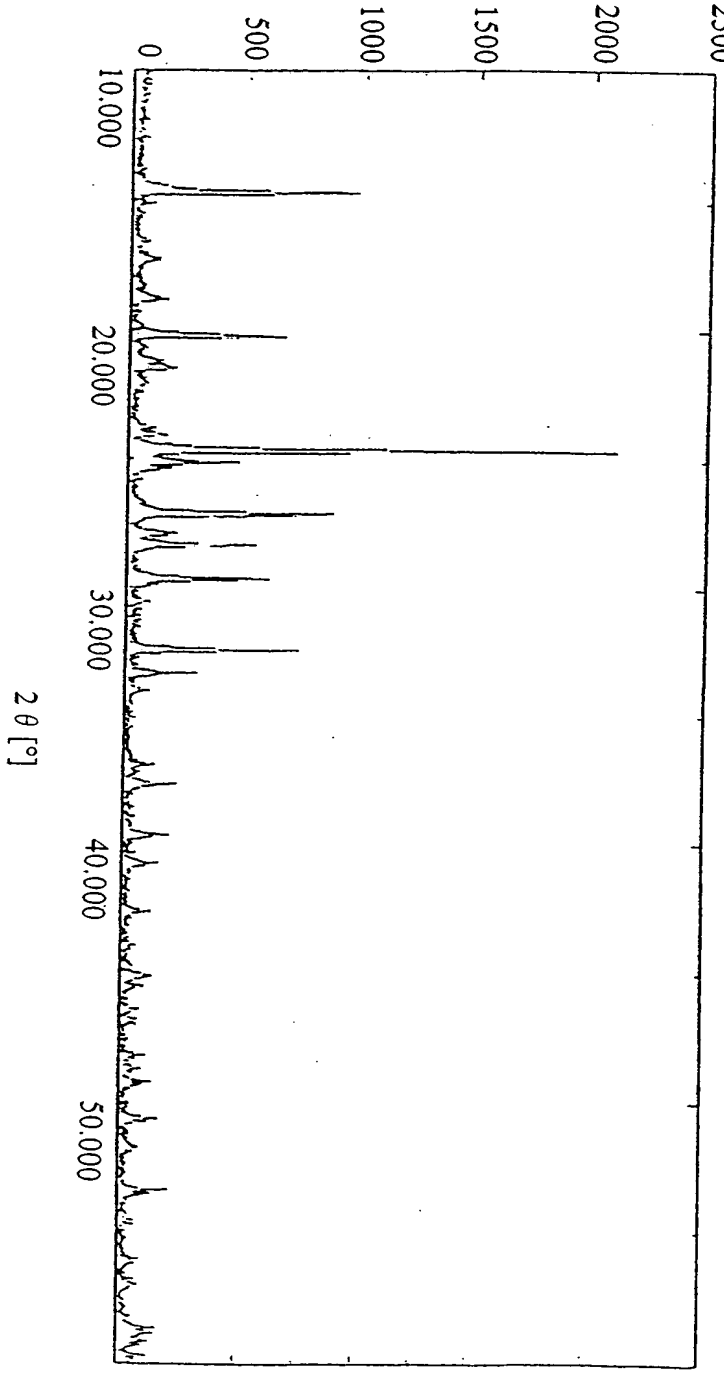
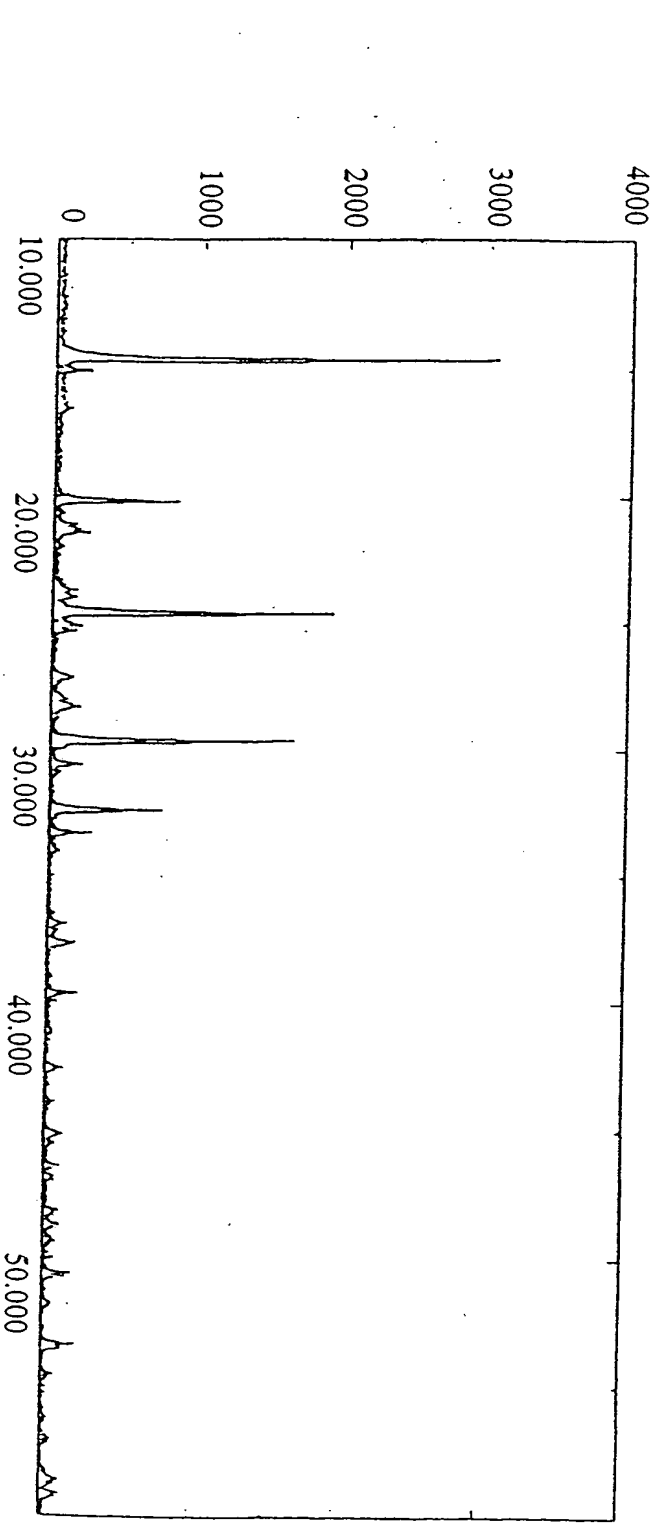


Fig. 3

The characters are amended to be oriented in the same direction and are at least 0,32 cm height.

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Fig. 4



The characters are amended to be oriented in the same direction and are at least 0.32 cm height.